

*At a Meeting of the Society for CONSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION held at  
Holyland's Coffee-house in the Strand on Friday, July 11, 1783.*

Dr. BROCKLESBY in the Chair.

*Recd March 20. 1785*

*Letter of H. A. & G. to  
of Boston*

RESOLVED,

**T**HAT the following Letter from the Dean of St. Asaph, relative to the prosecution lately commenced against him for the re-publication of a Dialogue between a Scholar and a Peasant, written by a Gentleman eminent for extensive learning and sound constitutional knowledge, and which was originally published by this Society, be printed in the news-papers.

“ S I R,

June 16, 1783.

“ I desire you will inform the gentlemen of the Constitutional Society, that their  
“ goodness has put me into a situation that is not a little distressing to a liberal  
“ mind. They have made me painfully anxious to appear grateful for their gene-  
“ rous and voluntary protection, and to render myself, if possible, not unworthy  
“ of it. It will not content me to stand acquitted of the charge, I will not say of  
“ the crime that I am accused of; for I know of none: I trust I shall appear upon  
“ enquiry to have taken no forward, or vain, or interested part in politics, which  
“ I acknowledge to be unsuitable to the character of a clergyman; but only to  
“ have taught and practised, when the occasion called upon me, the duties we owe  
“ to our country; those duties, which I have always held to be the most important  
“ and the most sacred duties even of a Christian. Let the weight of their obliga-  
“ tion appear from the evils we have suffered, and still suffer by the neglect of  
“ them.

“ I confess that I, with the rest of the Flintshire Committee, approved of the  
“ Dialogue, not merely from the deference we paid to the authority of the Society,  
“ but from our firm persuasion, that it contained the clearest and most solid prin-  
“ ciples of government; those very principles by which our own free government  
“ has been hitherto preserved and sometimes reformed.

“ For avowing these principles, though there are many who are equally crimi-  
“ nal, and many who are more criminal than myself (and amongst the latter I have  
“ the honour to reckon all the members of the Constitutional Society) am I singled  
“ out for the object of a prosecution founded on an anonymous letter, supported  
“ by anonymous abuse and lying reports, and carried on under a false name, with  
“ the clandestine malignity of an informer, that feels ashamed of his own malice.

“ I will meet the attack with the spirit of an honest, injured man, and am happy  
“ to find, that the malevolence of one bad neighbour has procured me the counte-  
“ nance and good wishes of so many of the best of my countrymen: and even in  
“ the midst of persecution I have one great comfort left, that though malice and  
“ faction may oppress a private man, yet the British Constitution is proof against the  
“ most formidable attacks: its own vigour, and the spirit and integrity it gives to  
“ those who love it, will always be able to defend the ground it stands upon.

“ I have the honour to be, S I R,

“ Your very obedient humble servant,

“ W. D. SHIPLEY.”

*Mr. THOMAS YATES,  
Secretary to the Constitutional Society.*